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U.S. Immig.

REPORT OF THE

Commission on the

Association and the Immigrant

**TO THE THIRTY-EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio,

May 15-18, 1913

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I. STATISTICAL STATEMENT.

1. United States.

The census of 1910 gives the number of the foreign-born as 13,343,583, or 14.5 per cent of the population. Since January 1, 1910, to January 1, 1913, 2,776,131 immigrants have entered and 1,537,194 have left the country, leaving a net gain of 1,238,937. Deducting 200,000 due to mortality from the total number of foreign-born in 1910 we have an estimate of 14,582,000 in the country at present.

The census figures show that 71 per cent of all immigrants in the country were located in the states east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers. This territory, having fifteen of the forty-eight states of the Union, has a total area of 443,118 square miles or 14.9 per cent of the land area of Continental America.

There are in the United States 229 cities of 25,000 population, and 158 of these cities are in the territory where 71 per cent of the immigrants are located. This section may be called the work-shop of the nation. Eighty-one per cent of the iron and steel manufactured in America is produced in the North Atlantic and North Central states, 94 per cent of the silk produced, 92 per cent of the woollen goods, 88 per cent of the clothing, 77 per cent of the hosiery and knit goods and 60 per cent of the cotton goods.

The immigrants are found in urban communities and form more than 50 per cent of the force employed in mining and quarrying, in clothing manufacturing, in iron and steel, oil refining, slaughtering and meat packing, furniture making in tanneries, in woollen and worsted works, in cotton mills; about 50 per cent of the labor force in the sugar refineries, in boot and shoe manufacture, in car repairing shops, on rail road maintenance, in chemical works, in paint works, in asphalt works, in smelting and refining, are foreign-born; while two out of every five employed in the glass industry, in silk mills, in glove factories, in cigar and tobacco factories, are of foreign birth.

These men form an important factor in the wealth production of the country, but the fact that 14,500,000 foreign-born peoples are in the country has precipitated problems which perplex statesmen, challenge philanthropists and reformers and test the fundamental truths of a Christian faith.

2. Canada.

Canada in 1911 had 1,368,860 foreign-born, or 19 per cent of its population. In the decade, 1901-1911, 1,715,326 immigrants entered the Dominion, 39.2 per cent of whom came from the British Isles, 31.1 per cent from the United States, and 25.7 per cent from Continental Europe; in other words, three out of every four immigrants entering Canada came from English-speaking countries. It is a fact, however, that 19 per cent of the immigrants from the United States is foreign-speaking, which retards the process of their assimilation.

The number of immigrants entering the Dominion in the last decade is very significant. The total immigration into the Dominion from 1851 to 1901 was about 550,000 (544,380); but in the last decade more than three times that number entered.

The total number of non-English speaking immigrants in the Dominion at present is estimated at 500,000, or about 7 per cent of the population. The urban population in Canada during the last decade increased four times as rapidly as the rural (62.25%-17.16%). The majority of the foreign-speaking from the continents of Europe, Asia and India entering the Dominion locate in the cities. Three out of every

four persons entering Canada from the continent of Europe came from Southeastern countries which, economically speaking, are least favorably situated. Hence this drift into the cities gives the statesmen, philanthropists and church leaders in Canada the same problems as are confronted by the people of the United States. The number of foreign-speaking men in camps, quarries and mines, in small mill towns and tanneries, in the United States is large, thus making small groups of aliens, isolated from Americanizing influences, a problem that is perplexing and serious.

II. THE NEEDS OF IMMIGRANTS.

The needs of immigrants are threefold:

1. In Transit.
2. At Points of Distribution.
3. In Communities.

1. In Transit.

When an emigrant leaves home for a new country he needs safe transportation, good food, sanitary accommodations, information as to baggage and tickets, and protection against exploitation. Most immigrants come from agricultural communities and are ignorant of the ways of the world. Some are robbed at ports of embarkation, others lose their baggage, whilst most know little or nothing about traveling. Few immigrants know the value of the money of the country to which they go and are grateful for a word of explanation; unnecessary pain and inconvenience both on land and sea could be avoided by suggestion; and the comfort and pleasure of the voyage could be enhanced by the presence of a sympathetic friend. When the immigrant lands in North America he is still subjected to a series of temptations, and he is not safe until in the home of relatives or friends. These needs can be met by literature, suggestion and personal touch; and of these three the last is the greatest. The Canadian Northern steamers have on board Ship's Mothers—women who are friends to girls and mothers crossing the ocean, and the same company has on its trains a welfare man who renders similar help to all on the train.

2. At Points of Distribution.

The immigrant after landing wants to get to his friends as soon as possible. Ninety-five per cent of the immigrants in America and fifty-five per cent in Canada bring an address with them, but it often requires a Christian to patiently decipher it and guide the immigrant aright. When his destination is a large city—such as New York, Philadelphia, Boston or Montreal—it is difficult to locate the street and number. Cabmen are always ready to serve the immigrant, but few of these men treat him honestly and sympathetically. He needs a reliable escort in order that he may reach his friends quickly and safely.

3. In Communities.

The immigrant, as soon as he is located, wants a job. When work is abundant he finds it without much trouble. Many, to their sorrow, go to unscrupulous labor agents. The government immigrant halls of Canada are attempts to guard against these abuses. Several of our states have passed laws to prohibit wrongs of this character, but no adequate means is furnished to replace labor agencies, to which an immigrant in quest of work will give his last dollar.

The immigrant also is imposed upon by foremen who make the worker feel that the continuation of his job depends upon the bonus he is willing to give. Sometimes cunning knaves, running employment bureaus, work upon the credulity of men and take their money. The immigrant is helpless in their hands unless some influential friend gets the ear of the superintendent and champions the cause of the oppressed.

Petty lawsuits is another source of exploitation. Many foreign men are unjustly arrested by petty officials who trump up false charges and the man is thrown into prison, from which he seldom escapes without paying a price. Others are defrauded of their wage, while many more are robbed by foreign banks. In scores of ways these ignorant and helpless men are like bewildered children when difficulty confronts them, and unless a friend helps them in the hour of distress, they fall victims of pitiless sharks—mostly their own countrymen—who take their last dollar.

The immigrant needs help to overcome these wrongs, and the one great need is, a knowledge of the English language. When a man can himself go to the foreman to ask for a job, when he can talk to the English-speaking, when he knows that he can find help by consulting an agency that is ready to champion his cause, the number of victims will diminish and the wrongs these men suffer will be fewer.

Foreign-born men who have been in the United States five or more years, are generally anxious to secure the rights of citizenship. The examination, however, is difficult and they know not how to prepare for it. Tens of thousands of aliens in our cities would gladly become full members of the family if they were given a helping hand to pass the required examination.

The immigrants also find the ordinances of a municipality hard to comprehend. They are generally taught in the police court. Most of them come from agricultural communities where municipal ordinances are unknown. They know not how to live in populated industrial centers, and do not either wilfully violate city ordinances, or obstinately oppose health officers, etc., they simply do not know; if told once they are liable to forget, for they were never drilled to live in congested tenements.

The immigrant should also know North America—what are its economic opportunities, its educational institutions, its industrial development, its political organization and its religious liberty. If he makes his home in the new world, he will be the better man for us; if he returns to his native country, the broader intelligence and larger conception of life he possesses, will make him a better member of the country to which he belongs. North America has received much from the achievements of great men in Europe, it can pay a part of the debt it owes by informing the immigrants coming to our shores of the institutions which have made North America what it is.

III. MEETING THE NEEDS OF IMMIGRANTS.

I. Government Regulations.

(a) In Europe.

Every government receiving or losing men by migration has passed legislation to regulate the inflow and outflow. No effort has ever been made to co-ordinate these laws, and in some instances conflict of interests has resulted. Many matters of common interest to all nations should be freely discussed and, if wisely determined, would add much to the comfort of emigrants. Each European nation now looks after its people as best it may.

Emigrants cannot leave Europe as they have a mind to. Russia will not permit its subjects to leave without a passport; France and Germany, Hungary and Austria, Italy and Greece, insist upon its subjects serving in the army before they leave for foreign countries. In each of the continental countries the shipping companies are carefully watched and their business regulated; the leading nations of Europe also regulate the condition on ship as to space, food and treatment, while the Italian government has a representative on board every ship transporting its subjects to foreign shores, to see that the provisions of the law regulating transportation are complied with. The Italian government also studies conditions in foreign countries, and if they are not satisfactory, it prohibits its subjects from going there. This provision has been copied by Austria and Hungary, and these governments have refused to send their subjects to certain states of the Union because of adverse labor conditions. The governments of Italy and Russia, Austria and Hungary, also keep in close touch with their subjects in this country. Each of them has an immigrant home in New York where the subjects of the respective governments coming from or returning to Europe may find shelter, counsel and aid. The governments of Italy, Hungary and Austria have also facilitated the sending of money to fatherland, while each government maintains agencies to protect the interests of its subjects in foreign lands. European countries do not prohibit their sons from becoming citizens of the countries to which they go, but if they swear allegiance to a foreign government and then visit their native country, they can only stay for a limited time. The close touch kept by the governments of the Balkan States with their subjects was well exhibited in the recent war with Turkey; the representatives of these governments called men from all over North America, and they responded readily.

(b) In North America.

The United States and Canada in North America receive immigrants and each has its regulations governing their admission. Of course, conditions are very different in the two countries, and these are reflected in the laws regulating immigration. Canada has much land to be settled, all the arable land of the United States is preempted; the Dominion has a land area equal to the United States but only one-twelfth the population, hence the former offers inducements to acceptable immigrants to go on the land, the latter none.

Canada encourages immigration, the United States discourages it. Canada in the year 1912 sent out three and a quarter million pamphlets and three-fourths of a million newspapers in seven different languages, advertising the possibilities of the country to men seeking economic improvement; America sent out nothing, but forbids the steamship companies in quest of trade from advertising any attractions in the United States for immigrants. In addition to the numerous ticket agents, Canada has a dozen or more men in the northwestern countries of Europe whose chief business it is to promote immigration; every year another twenty or thirty men are sent to England, France and Germany to lecture and give personal interviews to men looking for a better country. A corps of men, numbering as many, is carrying on a campaign of publicity in the United States. America also has representatives in Europe, not to promote immigration, but rather to check it; and the same is true of the men in the Dominion guarding the highways on land and water between the two countries. Canada, again, gives a bonus to every man leaving an agricultural life in the homeland and going on a farm in the Dominion, while it maintains immigrant halls in more

than forty points, where immigrants can find shelter until they are settled. In these halls information and labor bureaus are conducted; men needing labor communicate with the men in charge of these halls and thus the man who needs work and the one who needs labor are brought together. Last year 17,716 applications were received for help and the bureaus placed 11,189 men. The United States government has a department of information, but with an immigration nearly four times that of Canada, this department has not succeeded in placing one-half the number of men above placed; America has no immigrant halls where the immigrants may be sheltered while looking for a place to settle. Canada has no contract labor law, the United States has such and it enforces it rigidly.

The physical examination conducted in both countries is much the same, but in Canada consideration is shown to a British subject, for he is one of the family; while the attitude of the United States government knows no respect of person. The number of deported in America in recent years has been about 2 per cent of the total admitted; in Canada, the deported is less than 8-100 of one per cent.

The Dominion has also imposed a head tax of \$500 upon all Chinese entering the country, the United States has closed the door against them.

2. Volunteer Service.

(a) Religious Organizations.

In all the ports of North America, where immigrants land in any considerable numbers, Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish organizations have their representatives who serve the immigrants.

Twenty-eight passes are issued by the Commissioner of Immigration in New York to missionaries doing work on Ellis Island. The denominations represented are: Baptist, Presbyterian, Congregational, Methodist, Episcopalian, Swedish Lutheran, Danish Reformed, the St. Raphael Society, the Society of St. Mary, the St. Stanislaus Home, the German Lutherans, the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, the Russian Orthodox Church, the Bible Society, and the Religious Tract Society, the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A., etc. In addition to these, 42 passes are issued by the Surveyor of the Docks in New York City to religious and immigrant societies. Many organizations work along denominational and racial lines and only meet ships which bring people of their faith or race; others meet all ships and work among all immigrants regardless of creed or race. The missionaries are appealed to by the detained. They help the applicants to make appeals, consult the dockets of the board of special inquiry in cases of merit, file papers for a re-hearing, and, by communicating with friends and relatives, are often able to submit new evidence in favor of the immigrant. Those who have no hope save deportation they comfort, clothe, and give some mementoes, which in many cases assuage the edge of disappointment.

The missionaries also serve the temporarily detained by communicating with their friends, securing money or affidavits, helping them to locate friends, to find shelter and work. They also comfort mothers patiently waiting for the release of a child from the hospital or take a young bride and her future husband to be married, they safeguard young women who have no friends, and communicate with the husbands of detained wives, connect children with their parents, and patiently unravel innumerable difficulties which beset the paths of ignorant and innocent immigrants.

The missionaries also render service to patients in the hospital. Between 8,000 and 10,000 are annually treated in the Ellis Island hos-

pital. The missionaries write letters to their friends and relatives, comfort them in suffering, give hope and encouragement to the despondent, and bear words of comfort to the relatives patiently waiting on the Island. They also take flowers, fruit, books and other reading matter to the patients, they furnish toys and pictures to the children, and many leaving the hospital are clothed anew in garments furnished by these Christian workers.

The missionaries also take immigrants to trains or to their friends, they find them reliable boarding houses and employment and introduce them to trustworthy people; they look after their baggage, counsel them as to living conditions, customs and laws, advise them as to the best place to learn the English language, and help them to adjust their lives to a new country. No adequate description of the good service rendered immigrants by missionaries of all denominations and creeds can be given; in order to know this patient and self-denying work in all its phases it is necessary to follow the twenty-eight missionaries in the multifarious activities day and night, in season and out of season. None save the eye of the Lord can see the blessed result of this work.

Ministrations similar in character to the above are carried on in almost every port and port city in North America. In Galveston, and Baltimore, Philadelphia and Boston, St. John and Halifax, Quebec and Montreal, Vancouver and San Francisco, the various religious bodies have from forty to forty-five persons who meet ships and minister to the immigrants. Some of these have homes where men and women may be sheltered over night. No accurate information of the amount annually spent in work is available. The sum spent each year in five of these ports amounts to \$91,000.

To this record must be added the inland mission stations and churches which render invaluable service to immigrants. The four denominations, the Baptists, Methodist Episcopal, the Presbyterians and the Congregationalists, have about 4,000 missionaries working among twenty-six different foreign-speaking peoples in the United States, spend annually nearly \$2,000,000 in the work, and have more than 3,000 mission stations and churches, with a membership of more than 160,000. Many missionaries, in addition to preaching the Word, conduct schools to teach the English language, help prospective citizens to secure their naturalization papers, conduct labor bureaus, furnish information, protect immigrants coming to their city, and counsel them in times of trouble.

(b) Philanthropic Organizations.

Many national organizations among the foreign-born have representatives at ports of landing, such as the Italian Society for Immigrants, the Polish National Alliance, the Italia-Gens for Immigrants, the Bulgarian Society, the National Slavonic Immigration Society, the German Immigrant Society, National Immigration League, Home of Scandinavian Immigrants, Irish Immigrant Home, Armenian Colonial Association, Norwegian Home, etc.; then we have societies such as the Holland Benevolent Society, the Japanese Mutual Aid Society, the St. George Society, St. Andrew Society, Spanish Protective Society, Syrian Society, Armenian Union of America, French Society, etc., which minister to the needs of immigrants, although their prime purpose is not to aid and protect them. The largest work done by these organizations is in New York City. The Commissioner of Immigration on Ellis Island issues 34 passes to immigrant and philanthropic organizations, and the Surveyor of the Port, 54. The Italian Home, Casa dgl' Italiana, 120 Broad Street; the home of National Polish Alliance, at 180 Second Ave-

nue; the Swedish and Norwegian homes, etc., are well equipped. These sheltering stations find employment as well as give food and lodging every year to tens of thousands of immigrants.

The National Slavonic Society is doing a similar work for Slavs of all branches as well as for Lithuanians. The Labor Bureaus of the Spanish and German, the French and the Dutch societies, help hundreds of immigrants every month, so that the hardships incident to entering a new country are largely mitigated.

Another form of organization to help immigrants is represented by the North American Civic League for Immigrants, the Immigration League of Chicago, the National Jewish Council for Immigrants, National Conference of Immigration, Land and Labor officials, etc. These agencies protect the immigrants as they land, help them to their destination, connect them with educational agencies, attempt to effect a better distribution, and aid in the process of assimilation.

(c) Settlements.

Other potent agencies helping the foreign-speaking peoples to adjust their lives to America are the social settlements and kindred organizations. No social settlement, doing work for white people within the immigration zone, may be found which does not touch the foreign-speaking and their children. This type of service is hardly in its majority, and yet it has developed most markedly in America. It may be said to be synchronous in its growth with the onrush of foreign-speaking people from southeastern Europe to America and may be regarded as a movement to combat conditions precipitated by immigration in industrial centers. With a small beginning of less than half a dozen centers in 1891, they multiplied to more than 350 in 1912; the resident paid workers number 1,569 (78 per cent are female and 22 male), and an army of 7,375 volunteer workers (77.2 per cent of whom are female and 22.8, male). Of the paid workers, about 85 per cent serve the foreign-speaking and their children. The aim of the settlement movement may be best set forth in the words of one of the first and most earnest workers, R. A. Woods: "Our settlement has for its aim to bring about a better and more beautiful life in its neighborhood and district; to develop through study and action in this single locality new ways of meeting some of the serious problems of society, such as may be applied in other places; and to draw into this effort the finest available powers of heart and mind . . . (it) is a center of personal forces which become involved with the interests of the neighborhood without, and spread themselves through every healthful channel of the local life." A catalogue of activities of one of the leading settlements shows the wide scope of their work. They look after housing, streets, sanitation, playgrounds, public baths, public education, public health, law and order, labor, civics, charity, public discussion, art work, public lectures, etc.

(d) Local Committees.

Besides these various organizations there are local committees organized in towns where the foreign-speaking are in large numbers to do work for the aliens. The Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution are active in promoting work for immigrants, while in some instances groups of young people combine to carry on work among the foreign-speaking in their city. Legal aid societies are also found in many cities which serve the immigrants. The one in New York City served 33,809 persons last year, of whom 61.3 per cent were foreign-born.

Government regulations, missionary and philanthropic agencies,

immigrant national societies, settlements, independent organizations, are rendering a splendid service to immigrants, but before the needs of all immigrants in North America are met these agencies must be multiplied a thousandfold.

IV. ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES.

The Association in North America has always been interested in immigrants. The Canadian Associations have from their inception rendered services to English-speaking immigrants to the Dominion and in recent years they have broadened their work to include men of other nationalities. The Associations in the United States, in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, did considerable work among Germans, French and Scandinavians; but in the last decade, the sympathies of those Associations, face to face with the immigration problems, have deepened and broadened, so that representatives of forty-six different peoples are under business, social and religious influences which materially aid them.

1. European Port Work.

The Association in North America had not gone far in work for foreign-speaking immigrants before the world-wide sweep of the question impressed the men in charge. During the Triennial Convention at Washington, D. C., in 1907, representatives of the World's Committee sat in council with members of the Immigration Advisory Committee, composed of members from Canada and the United States, to discuss the advantage of a world-wide policy touching immigration. The conference resulted in work being undertaken in European ports of embarkation, which has since developed to its present dimensions. The following ports are now manned:

Liverpool	Le Havre	Rotterdam
Southampton	Hango	Naples
Bristol	Libau	Gothenburg
Glasgow	Antwerp	Copenhagen
	Hamburg	

Thirteen men give all or part time to this work among emigrants in these European ports and the efficiency of their work may be illustrated by one of many examples. Mrs. Ohannesian, Armenian, with three small children was on her way to Fresno, California. Mr. Scott, port secretary in Liverpool, met her and found out that she had no money. The day she sailed the secretary sent a cablegram to her husband in Fresno to send \$150 to Mr. Getty, port secretary at Philadelphia. The money was sent, and when the mother arrived in Philadelphia she was handed the money. This enabled her and her children to land and proceed immediately on the journey. The secretary appeared in her behalf before the Board of Special Inquiry, helped her with her baggage and ticket, saw her on the train, and when they were leaving, the eldest boy, 16 years of age, appreciating the service rendered them, clung to the secretary, kissed his hand, and in his mother tongue thanked him for what he had done.

2. Steerage Work.

Twenty experimental trips have been made in the steerage by men doing welfare work among immigrants; these prove the need of workers specially assigned to ships crossing the ocean, to render service to steerage passengers. Progress is being marked in this direction, for the head

of one of the steamship companies, having read the report of service rendered by the worker who crossed the ocean with immigrants last summer, has asked for some experimental work on board its ships.

3. North American Port Work.

Working in harmony with the secretaries in European ports are twelve men rendering service in the following ports of landing in North America:

Baltimore	Providence
Philadelphia	St. John
New York	Halifax
Boston	Quebec

The services rendered immigrants by these men are similar to those rendered by the Travelers' Aid Society and kindred organizations.

An example of the service rendered by these agents will not be out of place. A party of Syrians landed late in the afternoon from the ship in Quebec. They carried a draft but no money. The secretary, W. W. Lee, saw their difficulty, but could not get the draft cashed, for the bank was closed. They made signs of hunger, so he took them to one of the officials, who advanced some money on the draft, so that they were able to purchase food. The men were so grateful that they took Mr. Lee into the restaurant and offered to pay for whatever he wanted. H. B. Stevens, working on the New York docks, found a young man who had paid his fare to Chicago, while he held an order for the ticket. By his intervention the money was refunded the young man. The efficiency of the co-operation between European and North American secretaries is best verified by the fact that 45 per cent of the men touched by the European secretaries last February were served by the three secretaries at Ellis Island.

4. Points of Distribution.

The Association has also done some experimental work at points of distribution. The railroad and city associations of Scranton made such an experiment and clearly showed the need of reliable and sympathetic men meeting the immigrant trains and helping the men to conveyances to reach their destination. The same need was found by experiments conducted in Buffalo, Pittsburgh and St. Louis. The only place where the Association is doing a worthwhile piece of such work is in Chicago. Richard D. La Guardia is the present secretary and his report for the first two months of the year is as follows: "During the month of January and February, 8,971 immigrants, mostly from southeastern Europe, were met at the depots. We rendered valuable service to 783 men from whom repeated thanks were received. Thirty per cent of the arriving immigrants here had Association cards either from Europe or American ports. Five per cent of the men came to us when they saw the Y. M. C. A. cap. One young German, who had been helped six times by the Y. M. C. A., from the time he left his homeland until he arrived in Chicago, expressed himself thus: "The Young Men's Christian Association is the world's widest and safest chain without a missing link." The Ottawa association has assigned its "senior caretaker" to meet the trains from Halifax, St. John and Quebec, which stop-over for three or four hours before they move on to the West. The secretary says "it presents a splendid opportunity for Christian work as well as the general giving of information and friendly advice."

5. Inland Work.

The work done by the Associations of North America in cities where immigrants settle in large numbers has developed remarkably in the last six years. Twenty-five secretaries giving all their time to work for foreigners is a result of this special effort. The variety of service rendered is great; the following lines of service stand out distinctly in the activity of these men.

(a) **Follow-up Work.** In Associations where a broad work is being done, Cosmopolitan or New American committees are organized to do follow-up work. Immigrants, touched by the secretaries at ports of embarkation and landing, are given cards of introduction to secretaries inland. Men who present their cards are assisted in finding work, board and lodging. The secretary of St. Joseph, Mo., writes this month: "Kattenbusch came to the Association after a three days' trip from Ellis Island. We gave him a room in the dormitory, secured him a position and entered him in our class in English for Coming Americans." Most of the foreign-speaking immigrants will not present their cards, hence the immigration worker organizes his cosmopolitan committee to follow-up the men whose names are sent him by port secretaries. The members of the committee are those who have been helped by the Association and who have caught the vision of possible service to their fellow-countrymen. Mr. Love, secretary at Butler, Pa., followed up the names of two foreign-speaking men sent him and came in touch with seventeen others of the same nationality, who were organized into a class to study our language. Mr. Bowers, immigration secretary for Chicago, writes: "We would have but a meagre basis for doing our work in Chicago if it were not for the names and addresses sent to us from the port secretaries. We are able to render service to hundreds of men and probably to thousands through these addresses sent to us, that we could never have reached otherwise." A Magyar, who had been helped by the Association, framed his card and wrote under it in his mother tongue: "Trust thee to the Y. M. C. A., it is your only friend."

(b) **The Teaching of English.** This meets one of the most felt needs of immigrants. In connection with this work, the Association has developed three courses of instruction which are used in classes where immigrants are taught our language. Last year 218 associations in North America conducted classes in English, 1,179 teachers were employed, 973 classes were formed, and the men studying numbered 16,927. During the six years in which special attention to this line of work has been given, tens of thousands of men have been helped to a knowledge of the English language. The following is the testimony of one of these young men who began work for \$4 a week: "I went to the Y. M. C. A. and learnt to talk, read and write English. Then I looked for a better job. My pay now is \$15 a week and nine hours' work. I then began to live better. I have a room for myself, good clothes, I am living like a man and I have a chance to take care of myself, same as any honest American. I am thankful thousands and thousands of times to Y. M. C. A." Some associations have had striking instances of young men taking their first lesson in English in the classes they organized who are to-day in colleges or are in the professions. The centers organized are arenas where the fittest and brightest of foreign-speaking men are discovered and helped to come to their own in this land of opportunity. Special lessons on the industries have been prepared by the Scranton association, that of Chicago and by the State Committee of New England.

(c) **Naturalization.** The Association is also specializing in helping immigrants to get their naturalization papers. This work has been done for the last five years in conjunction with English classes, but the number of men who have failed to pass the final examination, or who dread it, is so large that a special effort is now made to help these men to prepare for this final test. A special booklet on Civics was put out last fall to meet this need, and hundreds of men are being prepared by special training to pass the required examination.

(d) **Lectures.** Special lectures are also given the foreign-speaking upon a variety of subjects, such as the United States, Canada, heroes and leaders in national life, the institutions of the country, its form of government, the ordinances of the city, the laws of the state, the industries, community sanitation, personal hygiene, the homeland, etc. One of the Associations developing this work writes: "Last winter more than 25,000 men were reached by lectures of this character," and this year Dr. G. W. Tupper, immigration secretary for the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island reports that no fewer than 30,000 were in lectures for the past winter months.

(e) **Fellowship.** Community meetings are also promoted by the Association in which men of all races in the city come together to sing their national anthems, and enjoy Christian fellowship. These men are made to feel that they are members of the same community, having common interests and should co-operate for the welfare of their city. In these meetings, representative men of native birth meet the immigrants, exchange courtesies with them and make them feel that they are a part of the life of the city. Last Lincoln's birthday the Association in San Francisco brought together a thousand such men representing sixteen nationalities.

(f) **Co-operation.** The Association has co-operated with other agencies doing work for immigrants. Some Associations have by request of school authorities turned over their work to the Public School, others are co-operating with the school directors by furnishing teachers, a system, and looking up the pupils. It has co-operated with missions and churches of both Catholic and Protestant followings, with Jews and Mohammedans, with Maronites and Georgians—religious organizations of all creeds willing to open their doors for educational work for their constituency have found the Association willing to co-operate in the enterprise. It has co-operated with settlements, clubs, societies, educational groups, libraries, reading circles, the D. A. R. and S. A. R., with boards of health, with health leagues, with first aid organizations, etc. It has also promoted conferences of immigration workers, such as bringing all of the agents on Ellis Island together to a dinner for fellowship and an exchange of ideas. Conferences have also been held, such as that at Tacoma, Wash., in 1912 and the one this year in San Francisco, California, under association auspices, when all agents interested in immigrants were brought together for counsel and discussion; other conferences have been held in New York, Toronto and Cincinnati, to which are invited organizations and individuals interested in the immigration question for the purpose of discussion and co-operation. Its plan is to co-operate with all agencies doing work for immigrants in order to develop the most effective means possible for the protection and guidance of these men.

(g) **Employment.** Most of the Associations doing work for immigrants, assist them to find employment. Every Association having an

employment department puts it at the service of the immigrant when he applies for help to find work, and in reports daily received from inland Associations, mention is constantly made of employment being found for immigrants. Last month Chicago reports having found employment for twenty-one men. In the bulletin of services rendered newcomers for this month, Attleboro, Mass., reports, "found positions for three;" New Bedford, "three Englishmen found and helped to positions;" San Francisco, "two German boys helped to positions;" and Pittsburgh found employment for six men.

6. The Industrial Service Movement.

The Association has enlisted college men, especially engineering students, in volunteer service for foreign-speaking workers in cities where the colleges are located. More than 1,500 of these students are doing work for these immigrants and are finding in it a rich experience by coming into personal touch with these men. Hundreds of them, who became interested in the foreigner while in college, are now promoting welfare work for aliens in the places they are employed. Many of the men who taught a class of foreigners are now engineers, filling positions of responsibility, and improving the working and living conditions of foreign-born men under their charge. A young engineer, who during his college career had rendered valuable service as a volunteer, this week expressed a desire to get back into the work and serve his fellowmen in a definite way.

7. Literature.

The Association issues literature for the information of the immigrant and for the promotion of the work among the Associations and the country at large. In Europe cards of introduction are printed in 32 different tongues and distributed among men who wish them. Pamphlets and pieces of literature are also distributed in French, German, Polish and English. In the port of New York, an explanation of the work of the Association is printed in nine different tongues, while guides explaining the coins of the country, giving friendly advice, etc., are distributed in German, Italian, English, Swedish and Danish. For the promotion of the work among the English speaking, pamphlets are constantly issued, descriptive of the need of the immigrants, the work done by the Associations, and the best methods to pursue to secure efficiency. In addition to this the Association Press has issued three courses of instruction in "English for Coming Americans," a hand-book for teachers, an ethnological study of "Immigrant Races to North America"; "Civics for Coming Americans"; "English for Coming Canadians"; and two readers for Coming Canadians, "Winning Qualities", and "The Makers of Canada."

8. Experimental Work.

(a) Instructing Teachers.

The Young Men's Christian Association College, Springfield, carried on special work among its students so as to prepare them to do better work among foreign-speaking men. The following is the course proposed:

1. Immigration: Causes, Sources, Extent, Destination, etc.
2. The Immigrant: Nationality, Health, Religion, Recreation, Morals, etc.
3. Education: Methods of Teaching English, Civics, History, etc.

The students also rendered real service to immigrants in ten different centers in the city, in which 250 men were enrolled in classes; thirty of the young men volunteered their services, and those doing the teaching have been organized into a "foreign faculty" group, which meets every two weeks a number of the college faculty, when the work is reviewed, problems discussed, and methods revised. R. L. Cheney, the secretary of the faculty, writes: "These students have rendered a very consequential service, but have in turn received great inspiration from the work which they have been doing."

(b) **Making Citizens.** A special work has been done by the Cleveland Association in Naturalization, under the leadership of R. E. Cole. By special arrangement with Ladd Krejci, clerk of the naturalization court, 250 aliens secured their first papers at a saving of \$500 to the men. The plan is to bring the applicants together, secure a speaker of some prominence to address them on the question of citizenship, and then the clerk issues first papers to all who declare their intention of becoming citizens. In this way, the men lose no time by going to the court house, and they are brought in contact with an agency that will help them to secure the second paper. The court will also hold night sessions, for the granting of second papers, once a month, and the men in training in the Association for the final examination will take their examination in the evening, and thus save themselves and their witnesses the loss of a day's work. An excellent experiment has also been carried on in Duluth, where from forty-five to sixty men have met every Saturday noon in the carpenter shop of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to receive instruction in citizenship based on "Civics for Coming Americans."

(c) **Follow-up Work.** Experiments in follow-up work have been done in Pittsburgh by Alexander Esplin. He says "most of the addresses sent us are in care of banks, saloons and small stores, and the proprietors claim to know nothing more of them, than that they have been receiving mail for them," and the conclusion he comes to is "the only adequate way is to get in touch with these people at the railway stations rather than wait until they have scattered and then try to get in touch with them." He concludes by saying that the "work is worth while. The opportunities we have had for helping these people have compensated us for all disappointments." The follow-up and depot work done by Richard D. La Guardia in Chicago is highly successful. His report for March states that he helped 769 persons at the depots, and in the addresses followed he generally locates from 70 to 75 per cent.

(d) **Method of Co-operation.** The Cambridge Association gave special attention to the co-operative aspect of our work and the following lines of co-operation are specified by H. M. Gerry: Co-operation with individuals among foreigners to start work, carry on the work and look up persons coming from Europe to the city; with agencies such as factories to put up class and lecture work, gym work, employment, library, and benefit association; with settlements, to conduct classes and lectures, clubs and cooking classes; with clubs among the foreign-speaking to conduct classes and lectures, socials and musicals; with Roman Catholic and mission churches; with Public Schools in arranging for continuation schools after the night schools are closed; with the students of Harvard University to secure teachers and social workers; with the Christian Endeavor Union for the purpose of furnishing musicals; with benefit fraternities to give talks at regular or special meetings; with the anti-tuberculosis association for the distribution of literature, for lectures, and for helping in case work; with associated charities for general information; with landlord and hospitals, courts and housing association, and with temperance organizations.

(e) **Cosmopolitan Committee.** In Lawrence, Mass., an interesting experiment has been carried on in a Cosmopolitan Committee, which represents men of all nationalities in the city. Secretary C. T. Holin speaks of it as follows: "These men increased their interest in and gave force to activities already organized. They have gripped great problems relating to the foreign people of Lawrence and have planned new activities in a statesmanlike manner." A Sunday night meeting has also been successfully carried out for the men, "the prime purpose of which is educational and inspirational and supplementary to the school work, but it is also realized that Sunday night is the one day in the week when time hangs heavily on the foreign-speaking men, and he needs a good time."

(f) **Slides on Accidents.** In Fall River, the immigration secretary, G. F. Quimby, reports: "Three of our mill superintendents are gathering material for a practical series of lessons and lectures on prevention of accidents in the cotton mill industry. Forty slides, showing the different machines, the different operation, the right and wrong way of operating the machines and the dangers to avoid are prepared.. Every week a few more pictures are taken. These slides will be arranged progressively and lectures will be prepared to bring out the points we wish to cover. From these pictures we plan to work up a progressive series of English lessons which will give the foreigners the English which they can use in the mill. Our committee is very enthusiastic over this work and the possibilities of its development."

(g) **Tent Work.** In Pittsburgh, the immigration secretary, H. A. McConaughy, has developed the lecture feature of his work splendidly. The report states: "The Industrial Department of the Pittsburgh Association during the past year has reached approximately 110,000 persons in our foreign communities by lectures on history, civics and health. The talks were illustrated, two lanterns were used—the one showing the picture, the other having words descriptive of the slide which the children could read and interpret to the older people. In several of our summer centers audiences from 1,000 to 1,400 were a nightly occurrence. Some of the results were the draining of stagnant water from a lot near the tent by the town Department of Highways, the enlightenment of the people as to the wisdom of city sanitary regulations, the awakening of many foreigners to the knowledge of the injurious effect of alcohol upon the human body, the cleaning up of playgrounds by boys, the planting of flowers and grass and appreciation of fresh air and the warm sun. The gratitude of the foreign-speaking was typified by a Polish woman who came to the secretary after an evening's program and said: "Good pictures, good talk, me happy."

(h) **Religious Work.** Definite religious work for foreign-speaking men has been done by the Jamestown Association. Every Sunday evening, all the year round, from twenty-five to thirty Albanians have met in the Association building for Bible study and Gospel talks. The outcome of this meeting is the organization of an Albanian Y. M. C. A. Leaders in religious work have been trained and hundreds of lives have been reformed. In Saginaw, Mich., ten Italians meet regularly for Bible study and form a nucleus for a religious organization.

V. POSSIBILITIES.

1. **In Associations.** All Associations in the immigration zone are not engaged in serving the foreign-speaking. There are 493 city and railroad associations in the North Atlantic and North Central States.

Seventy-five per cent of these are city associations, and, with very rare exception, they are located in cities where the aliens are located, and thus have the opportunity to do work for them. But the 121 railroad associations are also favorably located for work of this character, for the foreign-speaking form an important factor in the force employed around the round house, repair shop and yard gangs. After deducting the number of Associations located in communities where the immigrants are not found in large numbers, we find that less than 50 per cent of the Associations face to face with the problem are actively engaged in work for immigrants. As long as this is true, we cannot claim that the Associations are availing themselves of the opportunity to help men of foreign tongues and ideas in their communities. The needs of the foreigners, as far as knowledge of the English tongue and naturalization are concerned, are as great to-day, if not greater, than ever before, and the Associations are neglecting one of the greatest opportunities to be of service to men who most need their help by neglecting to go to the aid of the immigrant, who so often falls among thieves and lies bruised and sore, naked and lonesome, in our cities.

2. **In Lectures.** The lecture, accompanied either by stereopticon slides or moving pictures, has rendered excellent service to foreign-speaking men, but the possibilities of this means of education can be developed much more widely. The one great objective is to give the child of backward and impoverished countries an idea of the opportunities of North America, of the price paid in the development of this part of the earth and the sacrifices necessary in order to bring about the civilization we enjoy; the benefits they enjoy when they come to a well-regulated and industrially developed country; the privileges which are theirs and their children's; the importance of knowing the city ordinances and the laws which touch their daily welfare and happiness; the observance of personal hygiene and their contribution to social sanitation, etc. These are topics that can be illustrated and made interesting as well as edifying to the foreigners, but it requires the investment of brain and money, which thus far have not been commensurate to the need. Thirty or forty such stereopticon lectures or films are needed in the United States and at least eight sets of each, so that one set could be placed at the service of each of the seven states where the immigration problem is acute, and the other set be left in the International office for service in the centers outside those seven states where immigrants settle.

3. **In Follow-up Work.** The follow-up work is not supported by the Associations as we believe it should be. The foreign-speaking men are shy and suspicious. They will not come to the Association for counsel, but an earnest effort to find the newly arrived immigrant has again and again resulted in opening a door of opportunity which otherwise would not have been found. We know that addresses are sometimes fictitious, we acknowledge that it is difficult to get to the foreign-speaking immigrant because of the barrier of language and the atmosphere of suspicion which surrounds him; and yet it is true that men who are in earnest in doing this work have, through a Cosmopolitan Committee or some other means, reached the ear and heart of the immigrants and introduced them into higher and better things in North America than simply a higher wage and greater economic opportunity. If the 500 Associations in the immigration zone were to cultivate the fellowship and ask the co-operation of foreign-speaking men friendly to the Association, we are confident that 50 per cent of all the men whose names are sent to secretaries inland by port agents would be located and welcomed and helped.

4. **On Board Ships.** The question of placing workers on board ships crossing the ocean to do welfare work among steerage passengers, is waiting the favor of steamship companies and the support of men who believe that the immigrant to North America cannot come under favorable influences too early. The field is large and has in it untold possibilities. The workers who made the experiments before referred to were unanimous in their opinion that much could be done for these men. Lessons in English that would be of immediate value, amusements planned which would relieve the tedium of the voyage, instruction given by picture and word that would familiarize the immigrant with some facts which he ought to know before he landed in North America, help, comfort, encouragement, answers to questions, etc.—a hundred things which an ingenious and sympathetic worker among immigrants would think of could be done, that would make the voyage across the sea more pleasant and profitable, and impress the passengers with the fact that they were coming to God's country, where God-fearing men and women are found, who are willing to help the newcomer to live as men should live in the Kingdom of God.

5. **In Port Work.** The port work on both sides the ocean is highly commendable. The services rendered by many of these secretaries are such as commend themselves to our Father. The European secretaries who do not visit America and are not familiar with conditions confronting immigrants coming to the new world, would undoubtedly prove more efficient, if they could visit this country and observe conditions which immigrants must meet. If the steerage work is developed, the opportunity may be offered most European port workers to cross the ocean, serve the immigrants en route to the new world, and thus come to the knowledge of facts and conditions which will make their work in ports of embarkation of much greater value to the immigrants. There are some European ports of considerable importance, unmanned, such as Fiume and Trieste, Genoa and Palermo, Bremen and Patras, London and Queenstown, etc. Thousands of emigrants leave these ports every year and, as far as the Association is concerned, no work is done for them.

Good work is done in the ports of North America. The language difficulty is felt by the men of one tongue doing work in some of these ports and they would be able to render a larger and better service if they could converse in half a dozen tongues rather than in English only. The number of ships entering minor ports such as Baltimore, Philadelphia and Boston, is not large—only one or two a week. When a ship docks, the secretary spends from four to five hours meeting and helping immigrants; if for this half day, he could secure the service of a linguist, who is a Christian man of judgment, better work could be done.

6. **In Co-operation.** The Association has shown the spirit of co-operation in its past activity, but it has not taken a hand in the promotion of legislation by either Federal or State legislations relative to immigration problems. It is the policy of the Association to concentrate its efforts upon personal service, but it has not lost sight of the enlistment of other public-spirited bodies in welfare work for immigrants. Hence while emphasizing the importance of personal touch, it has stimulated ship companies, boards of trade, public school directors, laymen's organizations, social committees, ministeriums, etc., and has from its wide experience furnished information bearing upon immigration to philanthropic organizations as well as State and Federal governmental officials. Direct personal service and a readiness to co-operate with

every organization having the best interest of the immigrant in mind, have been the lines along which the Association has projected its work, and the large public service rendered by it in the past is a guarantee of the future attitude of the Association.

7. **In Teaching English.** More and more do employers of foreign-speaking men feel their responsibility toward the immigrant and are paying the cost of teaching English to them. Firms are furnishing quarters where their employees may come for education and amusement, instruction by illustrated lectures and fellowship. The men who have contributed most to work of this character firmly believe in it as a wise investment and are co-operating with the Association to place the work on a firm and satisfactory basis. We believe this plan practicable and look forward to extensive development in the future.

VI. RESOLUTIONS.

I. *Resolved*, That the presence in the United States, of fourteen and one-half million foreign born people (15 per cent of the entire nation), constitutes a challenge to the Associations to render services in behalf of the men and boys of foreign parentage, and since approximately 60 per cent of the adults is non-English speaking, special care should be given to the adaptation of suitable means for this service.

II. *Resolved*, That a rich and responsive field is open to the Associations of Canada in the rapidly increasing number of immigrants, three-fourths of whom speak English, and are therefore open to immediate enlistment by the Association.

III. *Resolved*, That this challenge comes with special effect to those American Associations in that "Work-shop of the Nation," located east of the Mississippi, and north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers, and the Associations in the greater cities of Canada, in which a majority of the non-English speaking immigrants locate.

IV. *Resolved*, That while great care should be taken to avoid stimulating immigration, we commend the policy of coming into contact with the immigrant as soon as possible, thereby showing the Christian spirit of service at the time of special need.

V. *Resolved*, That we approve the five-fold plan of work now developing:

1. At the ports of embarkation,
2. En route in steerage and second cabin,
3. At the ports of entry,
4. At distributing points,
5. At destination,

and we recognize this work as an illustration of the fraternity, strength, and scope of the Association, combining, as it does, in a common service, the World's Committee; The National Councils, The International Committee; The State Committees, and the local Associations of the continents of the world.

VI. *Resolved*, That we commend the policy of standardizing the forms of service and the printed matter in use among immigrants in transit; we also urge the necessity for special training of secretaries who do this work.

VII. *Resolved*, That we welcome the evidence of progress in placing representatives of the Association on board immigrant ships, and believe that a service can be rendered to immigrants en route that will be of value to them and justify the support of such work by the steamship companies and the government concerned.

VIII. *Resolved*, That we approve the non-proselyting basis upon which all of the work is done. We would urge, however, that no opportunity be lost to make known to the immigrant the whole message of the Association; the message of individual salvation as well as of social service.

IX. *Resolved*, That the system of "English for Coming Americans," as developed by Dr. Peter Roberts, has proved to be a particularly effective instrument of service, and we recommend that arrangements be made, if possible, with the training schools and summer schools, for teaching this system to those who are to work in the immigration zone.

X. *Resolved*, That we approve the work of the Industrial Service Movement, and its effect upon immigrants. We believe that large results must follow when thousands of students are engaged in personal service to immigrants, for thus personal contact is afforded, which creates mutual understanding and good will. And it is a wise plan to use as many volunteers as possible in the various forms of service to immigrants, since we believe that intercourse with Christian Americans is one of the essential needs of the immigrant.

XI. *Resolved*, That we note with satisfaction the growing activities of the Association on the Pacific coast, and their effort to anticipate the increase of immigration to that section. We commend their Conferences and plans, as good statesmanship.

XII. *Resolved*, That the extent to which the training for secretaries and the employment work have received the attention of the Association, is worthy of mention as a valuable and patriotic service.

XIII. *Resolved*, That we observe with satisfaction the willingness of employers to pay the cost incurred by the Association in teaching English to their employees, and we commend their example to employers generally.

XIV. *Resolved*, That it is important that the Association shall be informed as to the working, living, and leisure conditions of the foreign-born worker, and that the prevention of wrong conditions is a legitimate part of the Association's program of service, so long as it may be accomplished through approved Association methods.

XV. *Resolved*, That the co-operation with other agencies at work for the immigrant is one of the best forms of service, and that such co-operation should be given generously along the lines set forth on pages 13 and 15 of this report, and along such other appropriate lines as relate to the welcome, protection, education and advice of the immigrants.

XVI. *Resolved*, That we heartily commend the International Convention on Immigration, proposed by the Director of the Panama-Pacific Exhibition, to be held in San Francisco in 1915, that we shall be pleased to co-operate in this Convention, and that we believe a World's Conference of representatives of Young Men's Christian Association workers interested in immigration could be held in conjunction with this Convention, to which affiliated agencies might be invited.